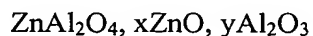


**PROCESS FOR THE ALCOHOLYSIS OF ACID OILS OF VEGETABLE OR
ANIMAL ORIGIN**

5

Abstract of the Disclosure

A process that employs a heterogeneous catalyst comprising a zinc aluminate mixed oxide and having the following formula:



in which x and y each represent a number in the range 0 to 2, and in which the zinc
10 aluminate is more particularly of the spinel type, makes it possible, by means of C1 to C5
monoalcohols, to:

- transesterify vegetable or animal oils having a natural free acidity, such as
unrefined degummed rapeseed, soya, sunflower oils or exotic oils of the African
oil, palm nut oil or coconut oil type, which are naturally rich in fatty acids;
- 15 • and simultaneously esterify their free acidity;

so as to use phospholipid free and/or degummed unrefined acid oil with an acid number in
the range 0.5 to 20, for example 1 to 15 and preferably 2 to 12, to produce esters, for
example methyl esters, for use as fuels.